

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

In the specification

The specification has been amended to more clearly describe the present invention as shown in the illustrations (and Fig. 5 in particular), and to provide literal antecedent basis for the amended claims. No new matter is added.

Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, because the 21 cutting edges in claim 2 are not illustrated. This objection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites simply a plurality of cutting edges (or cutting teeth). Dependent claim 2 restricts the plurality of cutting edges to "comprising 11 to 21 cutting edges," specifying a range of 11 to 21 cutting edges that may be defined about the periphery of each cutting blade. It is respectfully submitted that the illustrations, and in particular Fig. 5, show an embodiment of the invention that illustrates each cutting blade having a number of cutting edges (teeth) within the range of 11 to 21 (15 are shown in Fig. 5) as recited by claim 2, thereby satisfying the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

It is respectfully submitted that the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) to "show every feature of the invention specified in the claims" is not construed to require the illustration of every possible embodiment encompassed by the claims. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that an illustration of each embodiment within the range of 11 to 21 teeth is unnecessary because such detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner withdraw the objection, or state with more particularity the reason for requiring such further illustration.

Rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 2 presently stands rejected as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner states that it is not clear what the phrase “11 to 21 cutting edges are **preferably** defined” is intended to encompass. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of cutting edges recited in claim 1 comprises 11 to 21 cutting edges, clearly identifying that the number of cutting edges arranged about the periphery of the cutting blades is within the range of 11 to 21 cutting edges. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2, as amended, is clear and definite. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 presently stand rejected as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of Goldhammer (U.S. 4,625,925). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly describe the present invention. Claim 1 recites a plurality of cutting blades, and a plurality of cutting edges (teeth) arranged circumferentially about the perimeter of each blade. Moreover, a minimum distance is realized between mutually adjacent cutting edges, wherein the cutting edges are *separated* by a *minimum space between* mutually adjacent cutting edges.

It is respectfully submitted that AAPA and Goldhammer together fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations of claim 1, because AAPA and Goldhammer lack any disclosure or suggestion of cutting edges (teeth) that are *separated* by a *minimum space* as required by claim 1.

AAPA shows cutting teeth distributed about the perimeter of cutting blades by a great distance, with no suggestion of an advantage to be gained by a smaller spacing.

Conversely, Goldhammer shows teeth with no separation or spacing whatsoever between adjacent teeth. In fact, Goldhammer specifically teaches that “the cutting discs 14 have at their outer periphery a shaping in the form of triangular cut-outs 15 which are *directly adjacent to one another* and between which *likewise* form triangular shaped teeth

16.” Thus, Goldhammer specifically teaches away from cutting edges that are *separated* by a *minimum space* as required by claim 1.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, *there must be some suggestion or motivation*, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest *all the claim limitations*. MPEP 2143.

It is respectfully submitted that AAPA provides no suggestion or motivation for providing a plurality of cutting teeth edges that are *separated* by a *minimum space* as required by claim 1. Furthermore, Goldhammer cannot be said to provide a suggestion or motivation to provide *any* separation between adjacent teeth, because Goldhammer teaches away from such an arrangement by specifically teaching teeth that are *directly adjacent to one another*.

It is respectfully submitted that AAPA and Goldhammer don't establish a prima facie case of obviousness of claim 1 of the present application because there is neither the required teaching or suggestion of all the claim limitations, nor the required suggestion or motivation to combine the references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. It is also submitted that claim 2 is allowable at least because of its dependence from claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1 and 2 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

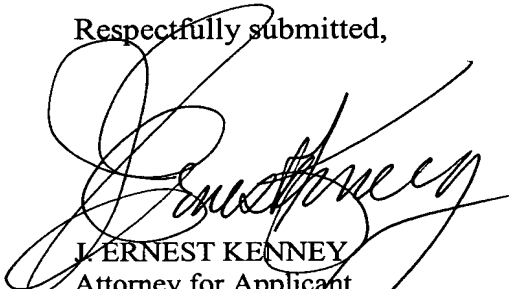
Application No.: 10/749,556
Examiner: F. Francis
Art Unit: 3725

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,



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